and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) 2 onland exploration blocks in the State'of West Bengal, one in North and the other in the Southern part, and 3 offshore exploration blocks located in the North-East Coast region of Bay of Bengal have been put on offer under the New Exploration Licensing Policy. The last date for submission of bids is 18.5.99.

In addition, 1 CBM exploration blocks in the North Raniganj region of the State has been approved for grant of PEL by the State Government.

रसोई गैस के मूल्य के संबंध में निर्णय

1049.**श्रीमती सरोज दुबे**: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि रसोई गैस के दाम बढ़ाने से समूचे देश की गृहणियों की परेशानी और बढ़ गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां,तो क्या सरकार रसोई गैस के दाम घटाने पर विचार कर रही हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां,तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं,और

(घ) यदि नहीं,तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) से (घ) वर्ष 1999-2000 के केन्द्रीय बजट में शुल्कों के विषय में किए गए संशोधन के परिणामस्वरूप एल पी जी (डिब्बा बंद घरेलू) के मूल्य में कमी कर दी गई है और यह संशोधन 27/28 फरवरी,1999 की मध्यरात्रि से प्रभावी हैं।

Private Companies in Oil Exploration

1050. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private Indian and Foreign companies that offered new oil exploration; and

(b) the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under the NELP, 48 exploration blocks have been offered for bidding to both private sector and public sector companies on terms that provide a level playing field to investors;

The last date for submission of bids is 18th May, 1999.

(b) The terms and conditions of NELP are as under:

(i) The successful bidder would be required to enter into a Production Sharing Contract (PSC), which will be Negotiated based on the model Production Sharing Contract.
(ii) The possibility of the seismic option in the first phase of the exploration period.
(iii) There will be no minimum expenditure commitment during the exploration period.
(iv) No signature, discovery or production bonus.
(v) No mandatory state participation.
(vi) No carried interest by National Oil Companies.
(vii) Income Tax Holiday for seven years from start of commercial production.
(viii) No customs duty on imports required for petroleum operations.
(ix) Biddable cost recovery limit upto 100%.
(x) Option to amortise exploration and drilling expenditures over a period of 10 years from first commercial production.
(xi) Sharing of profit petroleum based on pre-tax investment multiple achieved by the contractor & is biddable.
(xii) Royalty for onland is payable at the rate of 12.5% for crude oil and 10% for natural gas. For

offshore areas, it is payable at the rate of 10% for oil and natural gas. Royalty for discoveries in deep water areas beyond 400m, iso-bath will be chargeable at half the applicable rate for offshore areas for the first seven years of commercial production.

(xiii) Fiscal stability provision in the contract.

(xiv) Freedom to the contractor for marketing of oil and gas in the domestic market.

(xv) To facilitate investors, a Petroleum Tax Guide (PTG) is in place.

Bid terms:—

* Work programme commitment.

* Profit petroleum share expected by the contractor at various levels of pre-tax multiple of investments reached.

* Percentage of annual production sought to be allocated towards cost recovery.

Increase in Price of LPG

1051. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased the LPG prices reoently;

(b) if so, the increase in prices during last five years;

(c) the cost of production per cylinder during the above period; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to control costs by efficient management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The ex-storage point price of LPG (packed Domestic) was increased by Rs. 14 per cylinder (Rs. 985.92 per MT) onlv exclusive of duty, sales tax and other local levies effective midnight of 31st' January/1st February 1999. The price been been revised downward effective mid night of 27th/28th Feb. 1999 consequent to changes announced in the Union Budget. The details of the increase in the prices of LPG (Domestic) during last five years are given in the enclosed Statement *(see* below)

The cost of production of indegenous LPG varies from refinery to refinery depending upon the level of crude thruput, pattern of production, delivered cost of crude oil, the cost of processing/ refining and the return of capital employed etc. LPG is imported as the country is deficit in LPG. The estimated GIF cost of imported bulk LPG during the last five years are as under:

Year	Rs./MT
1993—94	5379
1994—95	6948
1995—96	7827
1996—97	10893
1997—98	•8306

Cost control is a continous exercise. The oil companies are taking steps in this respect which interalia, include increased capacity utilisation, better inventory control, improved refinery yield etc.

Statement

Data on LPG Packed (Dontestic) Prices

Date	Ex-Storage Point Price (RS/MT)	Increse/(-) Decrease (RS/MT)
Prior to 12/194	5135.88	
12.1.94	6192.22	1056.34
14.1.94	5840.11	-352.11
1.3.94	5309.19	